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Eugene R. Montalvo
Date: 21 May 2007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|---|---|-------------------------------|
| In re application of |) | |
| Douwe J. Runia and Eugene A. Murphy |) | |
| Serial No. 10/712,924 |) | Group Art Unit: 3672 |
| Filed: 13 November 2003 |) | Examiner: Daniel P Stephenson |
| DRILLING A BOREHOLE |) | 10 May 2007 |
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| COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 | | |

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 22 February 2007

Dear Sir:

Attorney for Applicant in the above-captioned application hereby responds to the Office Action mailed 22 February 2007. At the time the Office Action issued, claims 1 to 20 were pending.

The present response amends claims 1, 4, 9-15, and 20; cancels claims 8 and 16-18; and adds new dependent claims 21 to 29. The amendment thus brings the total number of claims to 25, five of which being in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that a fee for one independent claim in excess of three has already been paid at the time of filing the application, and hence, under rules 37 CFR 1.16(h) and 1.16(i), the present amendment incurs $1 \times \$200 + 5 \times \$50 = \$550$.

The Commissioner is herewith authorized to charge the appropriate excess claim fee, or any other fee that present response may incur, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1800.